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In the Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended)

The A drip system tool of claim 1 comprising:

a first elongated piercing member having a handle end, a central portion, and an arcuate jaw end with an inner edge;

a second tool member having a handle end, a central portion, and a jaw end, said jaw end having an inner edge and an axially oriented extension formed with a cylindrical socket, and connected at said central portion to said central portion of said first piercing member wherein said first piercing member crosses said second tool member and said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member faces said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member;

a piercing pin having a first end perpendicularly connected to said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member and a second tapered end that culminates in a sharp point wherein said piercing pin is advanced toward said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member when said handle ends of said first piercing and said second tool members are squeezed together and the length of said piercing pin is limited and does not allow said tapered end of said piercing pin to reach said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member when said handle ends of said first piercing and said second tool members are squeezed together;

a retention hook extending from said inner edge of said jaw end of said second tool member and arced to accept a cylindrical tube between said retention hook and the intersection of said first piercing and said second tool members wherein said retention hook is located above said piercing pin and is advanced toward said inner edge of said jaw end of said first piercing member when said handle ends of said first piercing and said second tool members are squeezed together; and

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a fastener rotatably connecting said central portions of said first piercing and said second tool members.

12. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 11 wherein said socket has a diameter compatible with receiving a conventional cylindrical connector fitting for a drip irrigation system.

13. (currently allowed)

A drip system tool comprising:

an elongated piercing member having a handle end, a central portion, and piercing end with an inner edge;

a fastener rotatably connected to said central portion of said piercing member;

an elongated retention member having a handle end, a central portion, and a retainer end with an inner edge and connected at said central portion to said fastener wherein said central portion of said piercing member crosses said central portion of said retention member and said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member faces said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member and wherein said inner edges of said piercing and said retention ends are advanced towards each other when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together;

an axially oriented extension formed with a cylindrical socket and connected to said retention end of said retention member;

a piercing pin having a first end and a second, tapered end culminating in a sharp point and perpendicularly connected on said first end to said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member;

a retention hook extending from said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member wherein said retention hook extends toward said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member and is located above said piercing pin.

14. (currently allowed)

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The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said socket has a diameter compatible with receiving a conventional cylindrical connector fitting for a drip irrigation system.

15. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said piercing end of said piercing member is arcuate.

16. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said piercing pin is advanced toward said inner edge of said retainer end of said retention member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

17. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 16 wherein the length of said piercing pin is limited and does not allow said tapered end of said piercing pin to reach said inner edge of said retention end of said retainer member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

18. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said retention hook is arced to accept a cylindrical tube between said retention hook and the intersection of said piercing and said retention members.

19. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 18 wherein said retention hook is advanced toward said inner edge of said piercing end of said piercing member when said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members are squeezed together.

20. (currently allowed)

The drip system tool of claim 13 wherein said handle ends of said piercing and said retention members have a gripping surface.

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Examiner has rejected claim 1-10, and said claims are hereby canceled.

Examiner states that claims 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of previous base claim 1 and intervening claims 4-10; therefore, it is now in condition for allowance. Claim 12 is now dependent upon allowable claim 11; therefore, it is also now in condition for allowance.

Examiner has allowed claims 13-20 as written.

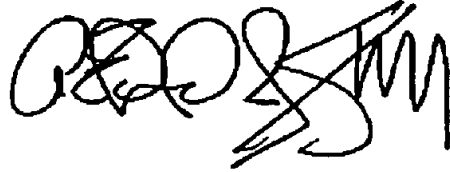
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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by fax to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Anthony Edw. J Campbell



Wednesday, December 01, 2004